

# Weekly Weather Crop Report

Week Ending: March 24, 1996

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending March 24, 1996. The main farming activities for the week included planting corn and land preparation for cotton and rice planting. Some freeze damage has been observed in wheat, but it is starting to recover. Winter grasses keep getting burned by the cold, but are slowly recovering. Hay supplies were 84 percent very short and 16 percent short. Feed grains were 36 percent very short, 63 percent short and 1 percent adequate. Soil moisture conditions were rated 4 percent short, 57 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1995	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	31	21	14	15	---	---	---	---	---
	Emerged	7	---	0	1	---	---	---	---	---
Wheat	Jointing	60	45	51	47	3	20	50	26	1
Watermelons	Planted	11	5	11	10	---	---	---	---	---
Cattle						5	15	42	33	5
Pasture						15	27	39	16	3

## County Agent Comments

"We had a good week of corn planting last week. Rain and snow this week have kept us out of the field. Some freeze damage is being observed in faster wheat."

— Charlie Estess, Coahoma County

"Field preparation for corn planting and burn down chemical applications for cotton field took place during the week. Growers are bedding sweetpotatoes and packing them for shipment. Pastures continue to show signs of winter kill from the early March freeze."

— Mike Howell, Calhoun County

"Wheat is starting to recover from the freeze two weeks ago. Cattle are having to make do because of limited spring grazing."

— Steve Winters, Grenada County

"Wet, sub-freezing weather continues to hamper pasture recovery. No fieldwork this week. Cotton producers are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the cotton referendum election."

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

"Corn is trying to emerge. Temperatures should be getting high enough now to speed up emergence. Cotton and rice land have been prepared. Producers still don't know the exact acreage they will plant due to no farm bill."

— Thomas T. Baird, Sunflower County

"Almost every cattle operation has exhausted hay supplies. Situation is extremely critical for some producers because winter forage crops are not growing. Some corn will be planted next week if weather conditions allow."

— Walter Alford, Montgomery County

"Warm temperatures have begun to green up pastures. Ryegrass pastures are looking better. Bermuda fields are also beginning to green up. Wheat is beginning to joint and should begin heading up soon."

— Bill Maily, Hinds County

"Watermelon and corn producers are waiting for fields to dry before they can complete planting. Over three inches of rain during the past week put most farming activities on hold."

— Roger D. Jones, Perry County

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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Hiram D. Palmertree, Director

Southern Regional  
Climate Center  
Louisiana State University  
Jay Grymes, Operations Manager

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
Thomas L. Gregory, State Statistician

Weather Summary From March 18, 1996 to March 24, 1996 For Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Ave Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Ave	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Ave	
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale	72	31	47	54	-7	1.36	+0.49	2	3.22	66	38	50	
Cleveland	75	28	48			0.85		2	2.90				
Tunica													
Extreme/Average	75	28	48	54	-6	1.11	+0.24	2	3.06	66	38	50	
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	72	25	45	51	-5	1.10	+0.11	1	3.61	67	36	49	
Memphis	73	31	48	53	-5	1.09	+0.19	3	3.39				
Oxford	76	24	48	52	-4	1.40	+0.37	3	4.09				
Extreme/Average	76	24	47	52	-5	1.20	+0.23	2	3.70	67	36	49	
3. Northeast													
Booneville	70	27	47	53	-6	1.11	-0.17	3	4.50				
Corinth	75	28	48	54	-6	0.82	-0.20	1	3.67				
Iuka	68	22	42			1.53		3	6.39				
Pontotoc	74	28	49	53	-4	1.03	-0.10	1	4.79	68	40	52	0.26
Tupelo	76	30	48	54	-5	1.11	-0.04	2	3.73				
Verona	79	29								67	38		
Extreme/Average	79	22	47	53	-7	1.12	-0.03	2	4.62	68	38	52	0.26
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	83	31	51	57	-6	0.90	-0.36	1	1.45	74	46	58	
Greenwood	78	30	51	56	-5	0.84	-0.20	2	1.12				
Rolling Fork	78	31	51			1.28	+0.13	2	2.11	77	48	60	
Stoneville	78	33	49	55	-6	1.68	+0.63	2	2.16	66	43	52	
Yazoo City	77	32	50	57	-7	1.19	-0.01	1	2.15				
Extreme/Average	83	30	50	56	-6	1.18	+0.04	2	1.80	77	43	57	
5. Central													
Carthage	76	28	50	56	-6	0.93	-0.24	2	3.43				
Jackson	76	30	52	57	-5	1.77	+0.51	2	5.00				
Winona	75	24	46	53	-6	1.06	-0.23	1	2.15				
Extreme/Average	76	24	50	55	-6	1.25	+0.01	2	3.53				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	75	33	52			0.78	-0.48	1	4.02	63	40	49	
Columbus	80	30	51			0.85		1	2.83				
State University	74	9	47	55	-8	1.16	-0.11	1	3.25	64	40	50	
Extreme/Average	80	9	50	55	-5	0.93	-0.34	1	3.37	64	40	50	
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	78	28	53			1.27		2	4.61	70	49	58	
Natchez	75	33	54	60	-6	0.90	-0.31	2	3.68				
Oakley	76	31	52			0.86	-0.40	2	3.21	72	41	55	
Vicksburg	78	33	52			0.54		2	1.29				
Extreme/Average	78	28	53	60	-7	0.89	-0.35	2	3.20	72	41	57	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	78	31	54	60	-6	1.58	+0.28	2	4.70				
McComb	75	30	54	59	-5	0.96	-0.21	3	2.13				
Extreme/Average	78	30	54	59	-6	1.27	+0.03	3	3.42				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	80	30	53			0.53		2	5.31	75	41	58	
Hattiesburg	76	32	54	59	-6	1.05	-0.31	2	5.53				
Laurel													
Meridian	78	28	52	57	-5	0.55	-0.79	2	5.88				
Newton	78	18	50	57	-7	0.61	-0.66	2	6.53	72	40	53	0.15
Extreme/Average	80	18	52	58	-5	0.69	-0.63	2	5.81	75	40	55	0.15
10. Coastal													
Bay St. Louis	76	30	53			0.00		0	1.69				
Biloxi	72	41	57			0.74		1	1.91				
Gulfport	72	35	57	61	-5	2.26	+1.11	2	3.52				
Pascagoula	76	31	51	61	-10	0.83	-0.44	1	1.85				
Poplarville	76	31	52	61	-9	0.83	-0.42	2	4.91	74	50	59	0.24
Extreme/Average	75	30	54	61	-7	0.93	-0.29	1	2.78	74	50	59	0.24
State	83	9	50	56	-6	1.06	-0.11	2	3.53	77	36	53	0.21

Abbreviations: DFN = Departure from Normal

United States Department Of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Agricultural Statistician  
Post Office Box 980  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205



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Agricultural  
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